

MDWB10



## LAND ADJACENT TO 28 SHROPSHIRE STREET, MARKET DRAYTON

*Watching Brief*

*for Mr David Frost, 3 Shires Construction Ltd*

*10/00082/FUL*

*November 2012*



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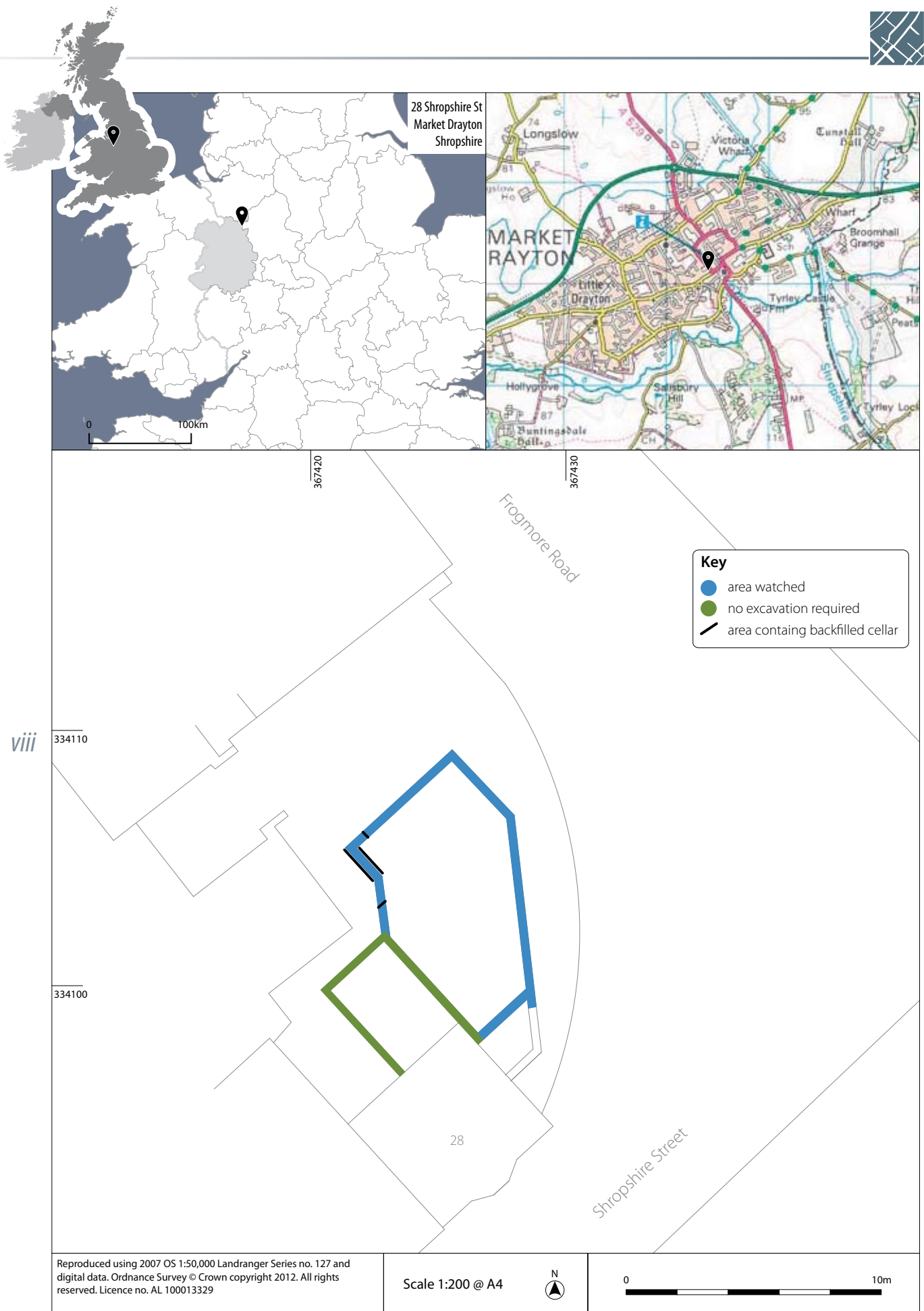


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**Illus 1**

Site location



# LAND ADJACENT TO 28 SHROPSHIRE STREET, MARKET DRAYTON

## Watching Brief

*A project to monitor ground works during the construction of a dwelling on a plot of land adjacent to 28 Shropshire Street, Market Drayton for 3 Shires Construction Ltd established that the area had been heavily truncated during earlier development within the site. Therefore it would appear that archaeological deposits and features are unlikely to survive within this plot of land.*

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd acting on behalf of 3 Shires Construction Ltd, conducted the ground monitoring works in respect of a planning consent granted to 3 Shires Construction Ltd for the construction of a new dwelling at land adjacent to 28 Shropshire Street, Market Drayton (NGR: SJ 67442 34093).

Shropshire Council's full planning permission (Ref: 10/00082/FUL) was granted subject to the following condition:

*No development approved by this permission shall commence until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation (Craddock-Bennett 2012), which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Such a programme must be prepared and carried out under the supervision and with the agreement of an archaeologist approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

Shropshire County Council's archaeological advisor to the planning authority determined that the scope of the required work would encompass the monitoring of ground work during the excavation of a specific part of the foundation design (Illus 1). This approach took into account the lines of previous foundations that coincided with footings for the new build.

The site work took place on the 3rd of July 2012

### 2. SITE DESCRIPTION

The development area is located within the historic core of Market Drayton on the corner of Shropshire Street and the A529. Examination of the available mapping suggests the site has always been within the urban conurbation of Market Drayton.

The Underlying geological deposits consist of the Kidderminster Formation a series of interbedded Sandstones and Conglomerates. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 242 to 248 million years ago in the Triassic Period (British Geological Survey 1990).

### 3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Market Drayton is referred to in the Domesday Book (William and Martin 2003, 706) but it is not until the 13th century that it developed into a sizeable settlement. It was a medieval borough, with the granting of burgage plots first being mentioned in a document of 1292. A market and fair were first granted to the town in 1245, which was in the hands of the Cistercian Abbey of Combermere at this time.

Trades known to have existed included tanners, glovers, shoe makers, dyers, tailors, girdle makers, mercers, millers, bakers, sawyers, bow makers, fletchers, masons and smiths. Glove making was an important industry from the 14th century, and aspects of leather working were still the most important industry in the 16th century.

When the town was established in the 13th century a number of Cistercian grange farms were also established by Combermere Abbey along the nearby Tern river valley, presumably to supply the town with goods for consumption and sale. Buildings known to exist from a rental of c. 1380 included a manorial hall, guild hall, bakehouse, a possible market house described as a 'bulkhouse', hermitage, mill, kiln, shops and stalls.

Civil war defences were supposedly erected by a royalist garrison, although their location is unknown and may not have consisted of anything more than road barricades (PastScape Monument No SJ63SE24).



**Illus 2**

*Photograph showing that the site has been truncated by modern development*

2

A search of Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) returned 87 records within a 250m radius of the site. The majority of these records relate to extant historical buildings within the vicinity of the site. 43 Grade II listed buildings are located within the search area, four of which are designated Grade II\*.

## 4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project were to ascertain whether any archaeological remains were present within the area of the development, and to characterise them by date, extent, preservation, and significance.

## 5. METHOD

### 5.1 Ground monitoring

The ground works comprised of the excavation of a series of footings relating to the new development. These measured 0.60m in width and approximately 1m in depth.

Excavation of the footing trenches was undertaken using a 1.5 tonne mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless bucket. All mechanical excavation was monitored by an archaeologist.

The excavated footings were closely examined for any features and the spoil was re-examined in order to collect any artefacts.

### 5.2 Recording

All recording followed IfA Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (IfA 2009). A plan was made of areas of the site that were subject to the monitoring of ground works.

Trenches excavated for the new building's footings were photographed using black-and-white archival prints and digital reference photographs.

## 6. RESULTS

For the ease of reporting the excavation results, a brief, generalised description of the contexts present within all the excavated footing trenches is given in this section.

The general stratigraphic make up the of the site consisted of a firm red sand deposit that progressively became harder and more compact with depth, until at about 1m, when the red compacted sand gave way to sandstone bed rock. Excavation of the footings ceased when this deposit was encountered (see Illus 2).

The overall stratigraphic makeup of the site has been seriously truncated through multiple phases of construction that have taken place within the site boundary.

The footing trenches were excavated to a width of 0.60m and were in general 1.00m in depth from the present street surface. For most part, the new building footings respected the line of



**Illus 3**

*Photograph showing area containing cellar*

the footprints of previous buildings and as such required no monitoring. However, a short section of the new build deviated from the existing footing lines and this area was observed during excavation.

A backfilled cellar was encountered towards the west of the site (see Illus 3). The portion of the cellar that the footing trench cut contained red brick and general building rubble. The depth of the cellar measured approximately 2m from the present ground surface, it was constructed from red brick with a yellow mortar, but due to the unstable nature of the infill, entry into the cellar was considered unsafe. The cellar was recorded from the section using photographs and located on the site plan.

## 7. DISCUSSION

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Excavation of the footing trenches has indicated that previous construction activity within the development site has truncated any earlier deposits within the development area. As such no significant or large-scale archaeological assets survive and the development area contains little or no potential for archaeological finds or features.

## 8. REFERENCES

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<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway>

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>



## 9. APPENDICES

### Appendix 1 Photographic register

Photo	B/W	Digital	Direction	Description
1	Y	Y	S	Road side footing trench showing sand/bedrock
2	–	Y	S	Road side footing trench showing sand/bedrock
3	Y	Y	S	General view of the site
4	–	S	S	General view of the site
5	–	Y	W	General view of the site
6	Y	Y	N	Showing backfilled cellar
7	Y	Y	W	Building footing
8	Y	Y	W	Backfilled cellar
9	Y	Y	S	Backfilled cellar
10	Y	Y	W	Bedrock base of footing
11	Y	Y	N	Backfilled cellar





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